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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,767	04/16/2004	Thomas M. Conway	6570-91244	1286

24628 7590 02/27/2006

WELSH & KATZ, LTD
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CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

STERLING, AMY JO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a Restriction/Election of Species for application number 10/826,767 Bias-Assisted Sign With Floating Mount System filed on 4/16/04. Claims 1-16 are subject to election/restriction.

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: Figs. 1-6

Species II: Fig. 7

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims

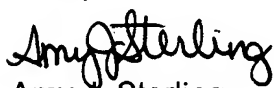
are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8a.m.-5:00p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached at 571-272-6788. The fax machine number for the Technology center is 703-872-9306 (formal amendments) or 571-273-6823 (informal amendments). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 571-272-3600).


Amy J. Sterling
2/15/06